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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR WESTERN UNITED STATES

Including Columbia River Drainage in Canada

Prepared by

U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES
and
BRITISH COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT of

BRITISH COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT of LANDS, FORESTS and WATER RESOURCES



TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 511 N. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 970, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia

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ISSUED

MARCH 1, 1973

The Soil Conservation Service coordinates snow surveys conducted by its staff and many cooperators, including the Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, Forest Service, National Park Service, NOAA, National Weather Service, Geological Survey, and other Federal Agencies, Departments of State Government, Irrigation Districts, Power Companies, and others.

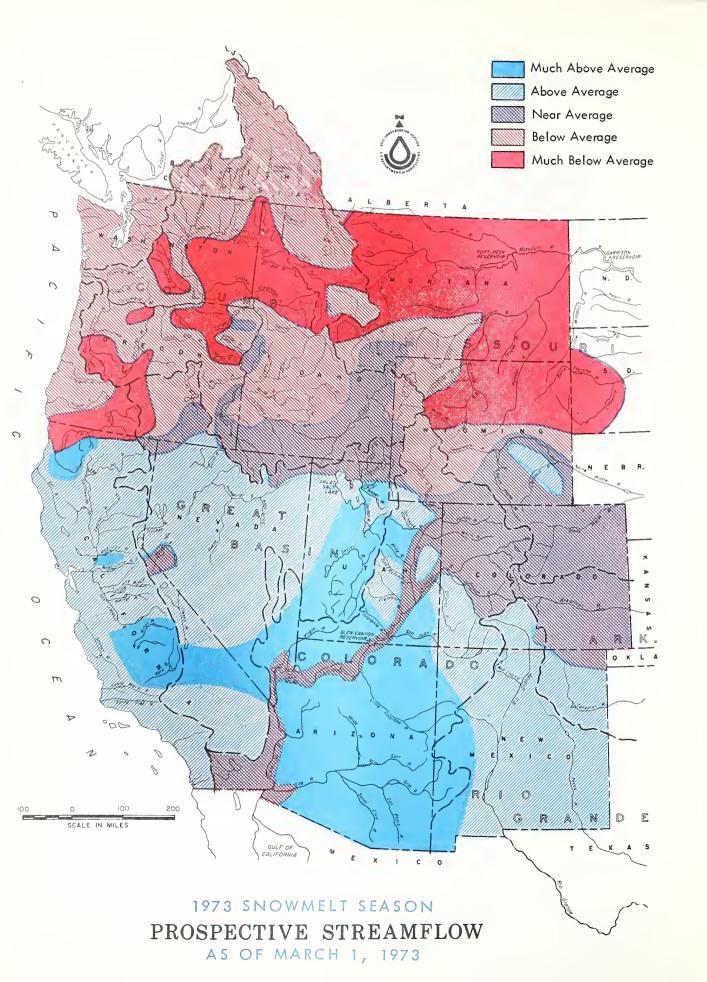
The Department of Water Resources coordinates snow surveys in California.

The Water Resources Service, Department of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources directs snow surveys in British Columbia.

This report was prepared by the Water Supply Forecasting Unit, Engineering Division, Soil Conservation Service, from data supplied by Snow Survey Supervisors of the Soil Conservation Service in the States of Alaska, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Data from California was supplied by the Chief, Water Supply Forecast and Snow Survey Unit, Department of Water Resources.

Data from British Columbia was supplied by the Chief, Hydrology Division, Water Investigations Branch, Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources.



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

1973 SNOWMELT SEASON MARCH 1, 1973

WATER SUPPLY FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES WILL BE REASON-ABLY SATISFACTORY TO EXCELLENT FOR MOST MAJOR IRRIGATED AREAS OF THE WEST. SHORTAGES ARE IN PROSPECT FOR SOME PARTS OF OREGON, WASHINGTON, IDAHO, MONTANA AND WYOMING. OVER TWICE NORMAL STREAMFLOW EXPECTED FROM SOME UTAH AND ARIZONA WATERSHEDS.

Present western snowpacks are highly variable, indicating extreme runoff conditions for next summer. The pattern of recent years has been reversed, with the most favorable outlook in prospect for southern areas. Unless spring months are very wet, irrigation shortages are highly probable for many smaller areas of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Fortunately, reservoir storage is generally average or higher in nearly all areas of the west. This will, to a large degree, offset the low streamflow expected from many streams in the northern areas. However, farmers, ranchers and other water users who are served by direct diversion from streams may experience critical shortages during mid and late summer months.

Snow accumulation during February continued to fall behind normal in nearly all sections of the Columbia and Missouri basins. This intensified the adverse effects of an already low snow cover. In the Columbia Basin the snowpack now ranges between about one-half to three-fourths of usual amounts on most major water producing areas. The British Columbia Water Resources Service, Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources reports that the snow is 83 percent on the upper Columbia, but drops to about 60 to 80 percent on the lower Columbia, Kootenay, Kettle, Okanagan and Similkameen rivers.

Snow is only 40 to 60 percent normal on Idaho's Spokane River and most watersheds of the Cascade Mountains. At 15 percent, snow has practically disappeared from the Palouse River.

In the Missouri Basin snow cover is similar to that of the Columbia Basin. It is slightly over one-half average along the Continental Divide from the Canadian border south to the Dearborn River. It is only slightly better on the Missouri main stem, and the Judith and Musselshell rivers. The snowpack is near average to 25 percent less than average on watersheds which head near Yellowstone Park. To the east of here it falls off sharply to near 60 percent in the Big Horn Mountains and

is only slightly over a third average in the Black Hills.

Near normal runoff is expected from the North and South Platte and the Arkansas rivers.

The California Department of Water Resources reports excellent water supply prospects for almost all areas of the State. Reservoir storage is near average. Central Valley streams are expected to yield 15 to 65 percent above average amounts from snowmelt runoff, with southern streams expected to produce most heavily.

In the upper Colorado River Basin snow cover averages near 5 percent above normal, but ranges from a low of 77 percent on the upper Green River in Wyoming to a high of 140 percent on the Dolores River in southwest Colorado. With inflow to Lake Powell for the April-July period forecast at 110 percent, prospects for water and power interests in the Lower Basin continue good.

In the Lower Colorado River Basin, Utah's Virgin River and adjacent smaller streams, as well as all of Arizona's watersheds are expected to flow at amounts from near 170 to over 200 percent of average. Reservoir storage is also far above average, adding further assurance of an excellent water supply.

Reservoir storage in the Great Basin is excellent. Combined with near normal to over twice normal streamflow prospects in all areas except Lake and Harney counties in Oregon, a very good water season is in prospect. Some shortages may be experienced in the Oregon section of the Basin.

MISSOURI BASIN

February snowfall on the upper Missouri River and its tributaries in Montana was very light, accentuating an already poor snowpack. The greatest snowpack deficiencies, at slightly over one-half average, lie on the Milk, Marias, Teton, Sun and Dearborn river drainages. It

SUMMARY OF SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT MEASUREMENTS MARCH 1, 1973

MAJOR BASIN AND SUB — WATERSHED	WATER EQ IN PERC LAST YEAR	UIVALENT ENT OF: AVERAGE	MAJOR BASIN AND SUB — WATERSHED	WATER EQUIVALENT IN PERCENT OF: LAST YEAR AVERAGE		
MISSOURI BASIN			SNAKE BASIN			
Jefferson Madison Gallatin Missouri Main Stem Yellowstone Shoshone Wind North Platte South Platte	47 59 65 37 55 50 48 86 86	78 81 75 64 78 83 79 100 92	Snake above Jackson, Wyo. Snake above Hiese, Idaho Snake abv.American Falls Res Henry's Fork Southern IdahoTributaries Big and Little Wood Boise Owyhee Payette Malheur	62 56 67 47 60 57 65	78 77 80 87 104 78 78 105 81	
ARKANSAS BASIN Arkansas Cucharas-Purgatoire	89 100	92 100	Weiser Burnt Powder Salmon Grande Ronde Clearwater	53 45 45 51 50 38	91 70 70 73 70 60	
RIO CRANDE BASIN			Clearwater] 30		
Rio Grande (Colo.) Rio Grande Pecos	127 190 410	128 137 180	LOWER COLUMBIA BASIN Yakima Umatilla	23 25	51 45	
COLORADO BASIN Green (Wyo.) Yampa - White Duchesne Price Upper Colorado	51 91 79 104 91	77 92 109 122 99	John Day Deschutes - Crooked Hood Willamette Lewis Cowlitz	45 38 25 25 23 26	70 65 45 40 45 47	
Gunnison San Juan Dolores Virgin Gila Salt	113 139 144 166 514 603	113 128 140 178 189 207	PACIFIC COASTAL BASIN Puget Sound Olympic Peninsula Umpqua - Rogue Klamath Trinity	30 44 40 45 140	51 66 65 60 140	
GREAT BASIN Bear Logan Ogden Weber Provo - Utah Lake Jordan Sevier Walker - Carson Tahoe - Truckee Humboldt Lake Co. (Oregon) Harney Basin (Oregon)	66 59 88 78 111 89 143 160 114 91 45 65	95 81 139 108 125 119 155 123 126 129 75 95	CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY Upper Sacramento Feather Yuba American Mokelumne Stanislaus Tuolumne Merced San Joaquin Kings Kaweah	100 135 115 110 115 125 130 140 160 200 245 320	115 145 130 125 125 125 125 140 130 160 165	
UPPER COLUMBIA BASIN Columbia (Canada) Kootenai Clark Fork Bitterroot Flathead Spokane Okanogan Methow Chelan Wenatchee	60 47 40 43 47 35 46 46 51 29	80 74 65 72 73 54 68 74 81	Tule Kern Owens Data for California Watershe of Water Resources, and f Watersheds by Dept. of Land Resources. Average is for 1953-67 perio- averages are for the per Based on Selected Snow Course tribution within the Basin, Repetitive Monthly Measurement	270 215 eds supplied or British s, Forests of d. Califo riod 1931-7 es determine Length of Re	155 140 by Dept. Columbia and Water rnia 0. d by Dis- ecord and	

is only slightly better on the Missouri main stem, the Judith and Musselshell rivers. Most favored areas are on the Red Rock, Ruby and Madison rivers where snow ranges from near average to 20 percent below average.

Moving south into Wyoming the snowpack remains near 75 to 85 percent of average on the upper Yellowstone, Shoshone and Wind rivers. It falls to near 60 percent average in the Big Horn Mountains and is only slightly over a third of average in the Black Hills.

Snow cover on the North Platte River is average, but slightly below on the South Platte.

Anticipated flow of streams in Montana ranges from near one-half to two-thirds average in the light snowpack areas, to within 10 percent of average on the Madison and upper Yellowstone. Flow of Wyoming's Shoshone and Wind rivers and their tributaries is expected to be near 60 to 80 percent average, while streams heading in the Big Horn Mountains should yield near 50 to 60 percent average. Unless March and April storms are considerably above normal, farmers and ranchers in this area and on streams draining from the Black Hills, who are on direct stream diversions without adequate reservoir rights, will face serious late season shortages.

The North Platte and its tributaries should yield from average to about 10 percent above average amounts, while the South Platte and its tributaries should supply average to near 10 percent less than usual.

Carryover reservoir storage is 114 percent average in Montana, 81 percent average on Wyoming's Wind River, 177 percent on the North Platte, 127 percent on Colorado's South Platte, and 190 percent in Belle Fourche Reservoir.

ARKANSAS BASIN

The main Arkansas River snowpack is a little below normal for this time of year, while on its southern tributaries it is essentially normal. If snowfall and spring rains during the remainder of the season are near average, flow of the Arkansas at Salida should be within a few percent of the usual amount. Outlook for the Cucharas and Purgatoire rivers is for flow to be within 10 percent normal. Flow of the Canadian River in New Mexico should be more than 10 percent above average.

Storage in John Martin Reservoir is 20 percent average. In New Mexico on the Canadian River, storage in Conchas Reservoir is almost double that of last year, but is still 12 percent less than normal.

Soil moisture continues good in both mountain and valley areas.

RIO GRANDE BASIN

The snowpack continues above average on all watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin. It ranges from 128 percent in Colorado to 137 percent on the New Mexico tributaries. On the Pecos River the snow is 180 percent average.

Mountain and valley soil moisture conditions are still reported to be good.

Flow of the Rio Grande near Del Norte, Colorado is expected to be 14 percent more than usual. Inflow to the river system should be near 22 percent above normal from the Chama River and essentially the same - 24 percent above - from the Conejos River. The water supply of the Pecos River is expected to be comparable, being forecast at 127 percent.

Carryover storage in Elephant Butte is a few percent above average, while storage in El Vado is nearly six times the usual amount.

COLORADO BASIN

Although February snowfall on the watersheds of the Colorado Basin was considerably less than usual, the snowpack still remains a little above average. However, it varies from a low of 77 percent on the upper Green River in Wyoming to a high of 140 percent on the Dolores River in southwest Colorado. The snow is average to 10 percent below average on the Yampa, White and upper Colorado rivers. It is near 10 to 30 percent above normal on the Duchesne, Price, Gunnison and San Juan rivers.

Soil moisture conditions continue good and will require a minimum of priming from snowmelt water before runoff begins. Unless the dry weather pattern of February persists thru the spring months, water supplies will be generally adequate in Wyoming, fair in northern Colorado and excellent elsewhere in the upper basin. Prospective runoff is lowest in Wyoming where prospective streamflow is anticipated at 15 to 20 percent less than average. Flow of the Little Snake, Yampa and White rivers is currently forecast to be within 5 to 10 percent less than usual amounts.

Inflow to Flaming Gorge Reservoir is indicated to be a little below average. After contributions from the Yampa, White and Duchesne rivers, flow of the Green River at Green River, Utah is expected to be 3 percent less than average. Flow of the Colorado near Cisco, Utah is forecast at 114 percent, while the San Juan near Bluff, Utah is forecast at 133 percent. Present prospects for the April-July inflow to Lake Powell are for 110 percent. Other streams where flows are still expected to range from about a fourth to a half more than usual include the Dolores, Strawberry, Duchesne, Price and Animas rivers. Storage in

STREAM AND STATION	FORECASTS		E	Last Year's
STREAM AND STATION	Flow In (1,000 A.F.)	Percent of Average	Forecast Period	Flow In (1,000 A.F.)
SASKATCHEWAN				
t. Mary near Babb, Montana 1/	420	85	Annil Cont	
re. Hary hear babb, Montana 1/	420	00	April-Sept.	
UPPER MISSOURI				
eaverhead near Grant, Montana 2/	72	68	April-Sept.	207
ig Hole near Melrose, Montana	400	62	April-Sept.	207
efferson at Silver Star, Montana	520	60	April-Sept.	
ladison near Grayling, Montana 3/	415	97	April-Sept.	626
allatin near Gateway, Montana	395	86		020
un at Gibson Dam, Montana 4/	385	64	April-Sept.	749
elt near Monarch, Montana	72	II	April-Sept.	/49
	300	66	April-Sept.	
arias near Shelby, Montana 5/		50	April-Sept.	
issouri near Landusky, Montana 6/	2,600	58	April-Sept.	
near Williston, North Dakota 7/	6,300	57	April-Sept.	
. Fk. Musselshell above Martinsdale, Montana	20	45	April-Sept.	
ilk at Eastern Crossing, Montana	200	71	March-Sept.	
ellowstone at Yellowstone Lake Outlet, Wyo.	677	81	April-Oct.	1,111
at Corwin Springs, Montana	1,750	93	April-Sept.	2,349
at Miles City, Montana <u>8</u> /	4,100	70	April-Sept.	
larks Fork near Belfry, Montana	445	76	April-Sept.	
hoshone below Buffalo Bill Res., Wyo. <u>9</u> /	576	71	April-Sept.	894
ind near Dubois, Wyoming	60	61	April-Sept.	150
at Riverton, Wyoming <u>10</u> /	420	65	April-Sept.	879
below Boysen Res., Wyoming 11/	550	73	April-Sept.	
ull Lake Creek near Lenore, Wyoming	145	81	April-Sept.	214
ittle Popo Agie near Lander, Wyoming	34	80	April-Sept.	61
ensleep near Tensleep, Wyoming	44	59	April-Sept.	92
edicine Lodge near Hyattville, Wyoming	11	56	April-Sept.	22.4
hell Creek near Shell, Wyoming	37	56	April-Sept.	81
ig Horn near St. Xavier 8/	1,050	61	April-Sept.	2,153
ongue near Dayton, Wyoming	71	69	April-Sept.	109
o. Fork Powder near Hazelton, Wyoming	5	54	April-Sept.	7.7
or verw read made mazer con, my chinning	· ·		, pri i i deper	'.'
PLATTE				
orth Platte at Saratoga, Wyoming	555	100	April-Sept.	
ncampment near Encampment, Wyoming	136	107	April-Sept.	131
aramie & Pioneer Canal, nr Woods, Wyo. 12/	118	100	April-Sept.	114
ig Thompson at Drake, Colorado 13/	95	95	April-Sept.	
lear at Golden, Colorado 14/	115	97	April-Sept.	
t. Vrain at Lyons, Colorado 15/	65	93		
ache La Poudre near Fort Collins, Colorado 16/	210	97	April-Sept.	
ione za roddre near rore corrins; cororado 10/	210	97	April-Sept.	
ARKANSAS				
rkansas at Salida, Colorado 17/	300	97	April-Sept.	
ucharas near LaVeta, Colorado	11	92	April-Sept.	
urgatoire at Trinidad, Colorado	40	90	April-Sept.	
			,	
RIO GRANDE				
io Grande near Del Norte, Colorado <u>18</u> /	500	114	April-Sept.	
at Otowi Bridge, New Mexico <u>19</u> /	600	117	March-July	
onejos near Mogote, Colorado <u>20</u> /	225	124	April-Sept.	
l Vado Res., Inflow, New Mexico	230	122	March-July	
ecos at Pecos, New Mexico	52	127	March-July	
LIDDED COLODADO				
UPPER COLORADO Plorado, Grandby Res. Inflow, Colorado 21/	205	0.4		
noan Detector Colorado ZI/	205	94	April-Sept.	1
near Dotsero, Colorado 22/	1,350	98	April-Sept.	
near Cameo, Colorado 23/	2,100	95	April-Sept.	
near Cisco, Utah 24/	3,196	114	April-July	1,594
Lake Powell Inflow, Arizona 25/	7,180	110	April-July	5,578
paring Fork at Glenwood Springs, Colorado 26/ acompahgre at Colona, Colorado	700 155	101 120	April-Sept. April-Sept.	

STREAM AND STATION	FORECASTS T		Forecast Period	Last Year's Flow In	
	(1,000 A.F.)	Percent of Average	1 0.00031 7 0.100	(1,000 A.F.)	
				70.00	
UPPER COLORADO (continued)					
Gunnison, Blue Mesa Res. Inflow, Colorado 27/	780	102	April-Sept.		
near Grand Junction, Colorado 28/	1,350	119	April-Sept.		
olores at Dolores, Colorado	290	126	April-Sept.		
reen at Warren Bridge, Wyoming	270	84	April-Sept.	431	
at Green River, Wyoming 29/	780	83	April-Sept.	1,645	
Flaming Gorge Res. Inflow, Utah 27/	1,035	98	April-July	1,967	
at Green River, Utah 30/	2,488	97	April-July	2,030	
orth Piney at Mason, Wyoming	28	81	April-Sept.	51	
	44	83	April-Sept.	82	
ig Sandy near Big Sandy, Wyoming ampa at Steamboat Springs, Colorado	250	96	April-Sept.	02	
	780	91			
near Maybell, Colorado		90	April-Sept.		
ittle Snake near Dixon, Wyoming	233	_	April-Sept.		
hite near Meeker, Colorado	270	92	April-Sept.		
trawberry at Duchesne, Utah 40/	75	153	April-July		
uchesne near Tabiona, Utah <u>31</u> /	115	122	April-July		
at Randlett, Utah <u>40</u> /	340	130	April-July		
akefork below Moon Lake, Utah 32/	70	106	April-July		
inta near Neola, Utah	90	113	April-July		
hiterocks near Whiterocks, Utah	55	108	April-July	46	
rice, Scofield Res. Inflow, Utah 33/	43	136	April-July	19	
ottonwood near Orangeville, Utah $\frac{34}{34}$	50	114	April-July	33	
an Juan, Navajo Res. Inflow, New Mexico 27/	800	129	April-July	259	
near Bluff, Utah 35/	1,185	133	April-July	276	
	525	128	April-Sept.	270	
nimas at Durango, Colorado	323	120	Whill-Sehr.		
LOWER COLORADO	70	104	Amasi 7 June		
irgin near Virgin, Utah	70	184	April-June		
ittle Colorado above Lyman, Arizona	15	192	March-June	2.0	
ila near Solomon, Arizona	148	203	March-May	15.2	
risco at Clifton, Arizona	75	194	March-May	9.0	
alt at Intake, Arizona	360	178	March-May	55.4	
onto above Roosevelt, Arizona	33	147	March-May	1.5	
erde above Horseshoe Dam, Arizona	165	155	March-May	31	
GREAT BASIN		_			
ear at Utah-Wyo. State Line	115	108	April-July		
at Harer, Idaho	255	113	April-Sept.		
mith's Fork near Border, Wyoming	99	92	April-Sept.	175	
	28			59	
homas Fork near WyoIda. State Line		89	April-Sept.	39	
ogan near Logan, Utah <u>36</u> /	110	111	April-July	126	
gden, Pine View Res. Inflow, Utah 27/	135	150	April-June	136	
eber near Oakley, Utah	105	113	April-June	115	
rovo near Hailstone, Utah <u>37</u> /	108	125	April-July		
trawberry Res. Inflow, Utah	52	127	April-July	38	
tah Lake Net Inflow, Utah	241	123	April-July	204	
ig Cottonwood near Salt Lake City, Utah	36	105	April-July	40	
eaver near Beaver, Utah	26	138	April-July	6.4	
evier near Hatch, Utah	54	165	April-July		
near Gunnison, Utah	51	165	April-July		
o. Fork Humboldt near Elko, Nevada	70	120	April-July	41	
umboldt at Palisades, Nevada	197	128	April-July	139	
ruckee at Farad, California 38/	289	112	April-July	164	
ast Carson near Gardnerville, Nevada	197	112	April-July	134	
est Carson at Woodsfords, California	59	116	April-July	39	
ast Walker near Bridgeport, California 39/	64	107	April-August	31	
est Walker near Coleville, California	150	105	April-July	108	
onner und Blitzen near Frenchglen, Oregon	55	96	March-July		
ilvies near Burns, Oregon	70	70	March-July		
hewaucan near Paisley, Oregon	59	66	March-July	117	
eep above Adel, Oregon	68	93	March-July	111	
idwell near Ft. Bidwell, California	11.5	100			
wens below Long Valley Res., California	75	120	April-July April-July	40	
John Bolou Long Vallou Pea C-lifei-			INTERPRETATION OF THE LANGUAGE	. /!!!	

Forecasts in California provided by Department of Water Resources. Average is for 1953–67 period except California. California is computed for 1921–70 period. Forecasts assume average Effective Climate Conditions from Date Through Snow Melt Season.

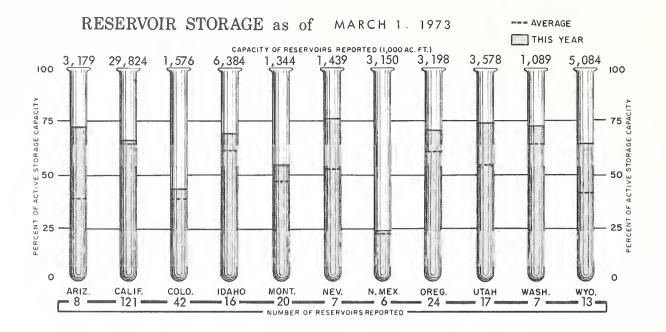
SELECTED STREAMFLOW FORECASTS MARCH 1, 1973

STREAM AND STATION	FORECASTS		Forecast Period	Last Year's
	Flow In (1,000 A.F.)	Percent of Average	Forecast Period	Flow In (1,000 A.F.)
LIDDED COLUMNIA				
UPPER COLUMBIA	20 560	0.5	Annil Cont	F2 F00
olumbia at Birchbank, British Columbia 40/	39,560	85	April-Sept.	52,590
at Grand Coulee, Washington 40/	55,570	80	April-Sept.	83,880
below Rock Island, Washington	59,500	78	April-Sept.	98,040
ootenai at Libby, Montana	6,900	86	April-Sept.	9,929
at Leonia, Idaho	7,750	84	April-Sept.	11,041
lackfoot near Bonner, Montana	690	68	April-Sept.	1,429
o. Fk. Flathead nr Columbia Falls, Montana <u>40</u> /	1,880	80	April-Sept.	2,850
lathead at Columbia Falls, Montana 40/	5,000	77	April-Sept.	7,821
near Polson, Montana <u>40</u> / lark Fork above Missoula, Montana	5,800	75	April-Sept.	9,182
	1,280	73	April-Sept.	2,430
near Plains, Montana <u>40</u> /	9,100	73	April-Sept.	16,073
at Whitehorse Rapids, Idaho itterroot near Darby, Montana	10,100 370	72	April-Sept.	726
riest near Priest River, Idaho 41/	550	66 60	April-Sept.	726
		1	April-July	
end Oreille below Box Canyon, Washington	11,220	70	April-Sept.	
ettle near Laurier, Washington pokane at Post Falls, Idaho 42/	1,495 1,750	78 56	April-Sept. April-Sept.	
imilkameen near Nighthawk, Washington	1,750 1,110	56 73	April-Sept.	3,162
kanogan near Tonasket, Washington	1,110	73	April-Sept.	3,102
ethow near Pateros, Washington	825	78	April-Sept.	3,024
tehekin at Stehekin, Washington	690	76	April-Sept.	
helan at Chelan, Washington 43/	950	75	April-Sept.	1,965
enatchee at Peshastin, Washington	1,350	74	April-Sept.	2,808
endeende de resnasting nashington	1,550	/ -	Арт 11-3срс.	2,000
SNAKE				
nake above Palisades Res., Wyoming 44/	2,120	83	April-Sept.	3,504
near Heise, Idaho 45/	3,250	87	April-Sept.	5,309
near Blackfoot, Idaho 46/	3,400	88	April-July	6,140
at Weiser, Idaho	4,450	70	April-Sept.	
rey's above Palisade, Wyoming	370	102	April-Sept.	556
alt above Palisade, Wyoming	340	106	April-Sept.	575
enry's Fork near Ashton, Idaho 47/	550	90	April-Sept.	820
eton near St. Anthony, Idaho	365	93	April-Sept.	568
lackfoot Reservoir Inflow, Idaho	100	98	April-Sept.	
ig Lost near MacKay, Idaho <u>48</u> /	145	86	April-Sept.	
ortneuf at Topaz, Idaho	75	94	March-Sept.	
almon Falls Creek nr San Jacinto, Idaho	70	100	March-Sept.	
ig Wood, Inflow to Magic Res., Idaho <u>49</u> /	190	73	April-Sept.	
runeau near Hot Springs, Idaho	190	100	March-Sept.	
oise near Boise, Idaho <u>50</u> /	1,250	80	April-Sept.	
ordan near Jordan Valley, Oregon	67	79	April-July	
yyhee near Owyhee, Nevada <u>51</u> /	60	100	April-July	86
Owyhee Res. Net Inflow, Oregon 27/	323	88	March-July	905
alheur near Drewsey, Oregon	65	72	March-July	
yette near Horseshoe Bend, Idaho 52/	1,550	84	April-Sept.	
eiser above Crane Creek, Idaho <u>40</u> /	480	95	March-Sept.	
urnt near Hereford, Oregon <u>40</u> /	28	65	March-July	
owder near Sumpter, Oregon	34	63	April-July	
agle above Skull Creek, Oregon	167	99	April-July	
nnaha at Imnaha, Oregon	272	88	April-Sept.	
almon at Whitebird, İdaho	5,400	79	April-Sept.	
ostine near Lostine, Oregon	103	88	April-Sept.	
rande Ronde at LaGrande, Oregon	109	52	March-July	345
learwater at Spalding, Idaho	5,500	64	April-Sept.	
LOWER COLUMBIA				
	674	70	April-Sept.	
	h //!			
akima at CleElum, Washington <u>53</u> /	674 1 010			
	1,010 585	58 65	April-Sept. April-Sept.	

SELECTED STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

MARCH 1. 1973

STREAM AND STATION	FORECASTS		Forecast Period Flow I		
STREAM AND STATION	Flow In Percent of (1,000 A.F.) Average		Forecast Period	Flow In (1,000 A.F.)	
LOWER COLUMBIA (continued) Walla Walla, So. Fk. near Milton, Oregon Umatilla at Pendleton, Oregon John Day, Middle Fork at Ritter, Oregon North Fork at Monument, Oregon Crooked near Post, Oregon Deschutes at Benham Falls, Oregon 40/ Columbia at The Dalles, Oregon 40/ Hood near Tucker Bridge, Oregon 40/ McKenzie near Vida, Oregon Santiam, South, at Waterloo, Oregon North, at Mehama, Oregon 40/ Clackamas at Estacada, Oregon Willamette at Salem, Oregon 40/ Lewis at Ariel, Washington 56/ Cowlitz at Castle Rock, Washington 57/	63 135 96 468 101 339 78,500 197 815 375 504 480 2,999 1,020 2,030	80 65 71 69 72 86 75 70 75 63 63 70 64 75	March-Sept. March-July March-July March-July April-July April-Sept. April-Sept.	134,620	
NORTH PACIFIC COASTAL Dungeness near Sequim, Washington Umpqua, No., near Toketee Falls, Oregon 40/ Rogue at Raygold, Oregon Klamath Lake, Net Inflow, Oregon Trinity at Lewiston, California	125 135 719 422 820	73 77 76 68 133	April-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. April-July	479	
CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY 40/ Sacramento, Inflow to Shasta, California Feather near Oroville, California Yuba at Smartville, California American, Inflow to Folsom Res., Calif. Cosumnes at Michigan Bar, California Mokelumne, Inflow to Pardee Res., Calif. Stanislaus, Inflow to Melones Res., Calif. Tuolumne, Inflow to Don Pedro Res., Calif. Merced, Inflow to Excheque Res., Calif. San Joaquin, Inflow to Millerton Lake, Calif. Kings, Inflow to Pine Flat Res., California Kaweah, Inflow to Terminus Res., California Tule, Inflow to Success Res., California Kern, Inflow to Isabella Res., California	2,040 2,330 1,240 1,500 240 550 860 1,430 750 1,540 1,610 400 90 650	115 125 115 114 165 118 120 125 123 129 139 148 152 155	April-July	1,621 1,198 760 916 65 316 456 722 371 701 537 93 7	
ALASKA Chena at Fairbanks, Alaska Salcha near Salchaket, Alaska	560 640	126 110	May-June May-June	524 699	



irrigation reservoirs is well above average.

In the lower Colorado Basin the Virgin River near Virgin, Utah is forecast at 184 percent. The current water supply outlook is excellent for all of Arizona. Reservoir storage is exceptionally good in all major reservoirs. Salt River Project reservoirs are 60 percent above average, while San Carlos contains $4\frac{1}{2}$ times its usual amount.

Snow cover varies from 167 percent on the Little Colorado to 295 percent on the Verde watershed. It is 189 percent on the Gila River and 207 percent on the Salt.

Salt River Project streams are predicted to produce 558,000 acre-feet during the March-May period. This is 69 percent above the average amount. The Gila River will yield twice its average amount. The Little Colorado River will produce a comparable amount.

GREAT BASIN

Most watersheds of the Great Basin have snowpacks which are near or well above average. Combined with excellent reservoir storage, this foreshadows good to excellent water supplies next summer for all areas except for some smaller watersheds in Oregon.

This year's snowpack ranges from a low of 75 percent average in Oregon's Lake County and 81 percent average on Utah's Logan River to highs of near 140 to 155 on the Ogden and Sevier rivers in Utah. In Nevada the snow is near 125 to 130 percent.

Lowest forecast in the Basin is for Oregon's Chewaucan near Paisley at 66 percent. Silvies near Burns is comparable at 70 percent. Streams where about 5 to 10 percent less than normal runoff is expected include Wyoming's Smith and Thomas Forks, Oregon's Deep Creek near Adel and the Donner und Blitzen near Frenchglen. Flow of all other streams in the Basin is anticipated to be normal or considerably more.

In Nevada water users on the Humboldt River can now anticipate the flow at Palisade to be near 128 percent of average. On the lower Humboldt, storage in Rye Patch Reservoir is 214 percent of the usual amount. This virtually assures excellent water supplies next summer for those served by this system.

Flow of the Sierra-Nevada streams into Nevada should be near 5 to 15 percent above average. Snow is above average in eastern Nevada. It is over twice normal on the Reese River in central Nevada, and is among the heaviest years of record in the south. Reservoir storage in Nevada is 143 percent of the normal amount.

In Utah stream forecasts range from 105 percent for Big Cottonwood Creek near Salt Lake to over twice normal on the East Fork Sevier in the south. Inflow to Pineview Reservoir on the Ogden River is forecast at 150 percent, while flow of the Sevier at Hatch and Gunnison is expected to be 165 percent. Most central and southern Utah streams are forecast at near 120 to 150 percent of normal.

At a third more than average, Utah's reser-

STORAGE IN LARGE RESERVOIRS MARCH 1, 1973

BASIN AND NAME OF RESERVOIR	CAPACITY (1,000 A.F.)	STORAGE (1,000 A.F.)	STORAGE PERCENT AVERAGE	BASIN AND NAME OF RESERVOIR	CAPACITY (1,000 A.F.)	STORAGE (1,000 A.F.)	STORAGE PERCENT AVERAGE
UPPER MISSOURI Belle Fourche Boysen Buffalo Bill Canyon Ferry Fort Peck Garrison Hebgen Keyhole Lake Francis Case Lake Sharp Oahe Tiber Big Horn	185 550 373 2,043 19,410 24,790 377 192 5,816 1,900 23,630 1,347 1,356	156 254 200 1,419 16,550 20,075 254 158 3,943 1,738 17,920 419 886	190 65 143 91 152 194 149 451 117 105 155 67 151	UPPER COLUMBIA Chelan Coeur d'Alene Duncan Flathead Hungry Horse Kootenay Lake Koocanusa Lower Arrow Noxon Rapids Pend Oreille Roosevelt Upper Arrow	676 225 1,347 1,791 3,428 673 3,083 335 1,155 5,232 4,061	141 53 137 1,010 2,062 453 270 391 321 393 3,729 298	58 39 105 91 105 99 109 77 125 35
PLATTE City of Denver (5) Colo-Big Thompson (3) Glendo Pathfinder Seminoe ARKANSAS	507 718 784 1,016 1,010	392 609 395 919 513	101 153 126 241 161	Cougar Detroit Green Peter Hills Creek Lookout Point Prineville Wickiup Yakima Res. (5)	155 300 270 200 337 153 200 1,066	26 56 63 45 31 112 187 778	59 71 26 115 105 115
Conchas John Martin RIO GRANDE Elephant Butte El Vado UPPER COLORADO	273 354 2,195 195	143 17 382 23	88 20 103 575	SNAKE American Falls Anderson Ranch Arrowrock Brownlee Cascade Jackson Lucky Peak	1,700 423 287 980 653 847 278	1,091 290 278 475 351 636 178	76 136 110 114 128 144 167
Blue Mesa Flaming Gorge Navajo Powell Starvation	830 3,749 1,696 25,002	315 2,875 888 12,217 129	88 230 165 238	Owyhee Palisades Warm Springs PACIFIC COASTAL	715 1,200 191	603 933 111	146 131 118
LOWER COLORADO Havasu Mead Mohave Salt River Res. (4) San Carlos Verde River Res. (2)	619 26,159 1,810 1,755 949 318	535 19,453 1,748 1,426 510 304	100 119 103 148 459 258	Clair Engle Clear Lake Nacimiento Ross Upper Klamath CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY	2,448 440 350 1,203 584	2,130 310 267 870 444	101 136 141 102 105
GREAT BASIN Bear Lahontan Rye Patch Sevier Bridge Strawberry Tahoe Utah Willard Bay	1,421 314 179 236 274 732 884 293	1,090 245 158 129 182 544 786 162	125 128 214 160 152 132 141	Almanor Berryessa Bullards Bar Folsom Isabella McClure Millerton Oroville Pine Flat Shasta	1,036 1,602 930 1,010 570 1,026 521 3,484 1,013 4,500	680 1,595 531 606 77 454 422 2,876 485 3,494	101 102 113 101 41 82 118 114 83 103

Reservoir Storage Data Provided by Bureau of Reclamation , Corps of Engineers, Ceological Survey. and water using organizations. Data from California and British Columbia provided by Department of Water Resources and Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, respectively.

voir storage is excellent.

Outlook for California's Owens Valley is very good, with the Owens River expected to flow at $20\ \text{percent}$ over the normal amount.

COLUMBIA BASIN

Snow accumulation during February was well below normal throughout most of the Columbia Basin, thus intensifying the effects of an already low snow cover. The mild temperatures of the month removed much of the lower elevation snows.

The snowpack now ranges between one-half to three-fourths of usual amounts on most of the major water producing areas. In British Columbia the snow is 83 percent of average on the upper Columbia, but drops to about 60 to 80 percent on the lower Columbia, Kootenay, Kettle, Okanagan and Similkameen rivers.

South of the international boundary the snow-pack continues in the 60 to 80 percent range across northern Washington, western Montana, Idaho's Priest, Clearwater, Salmon, Boise, Big and Little Lost, and Big Wood rivers. Included in this same snow cover range are Oregon's Deschutes-Crooked, John Day, Grande Ronde, Burnt and Powder rivers, and Wyoming's upper Snake River.

At 15 percent normal, snow has practically disappeared from the Palouse River. Only 40 to 60 percent normal snow lies on Idaho's Spokane River, all Cascade Mountain watersheds in Washington and Oregon except the Chelan, Methow and Okanagan rivers. The Umatilla, Walla Walla and lower John Day are also included in the low snow zone.

The only watersheds having a normal to 10 percent above normal snow are the smaller southern Idaho tributaries to the Snake River.

Expected flow of the Columbia at The Dalles is now expected to be about three-fourths of its normal amount.

Streamflow prospects closely follow the snowpack distribution and range from about onehalf average on streams such as the Spokane and Grande Ronde rivers, to two-thirds to three-fourths of average on most other streams.

Unless spring and summer months are wet, smaller irrigated areas having inadequate reservoir storage facilities and those dependent on direct diversion from streams can expect water shortages next summer.

Storage in irrigation reservoirs continues excellent, reflecting the remarkably high carryover from last year's heavy runoff.

ALASKA

Snowfall on Alaska's mountain watersheds was highly variable during February. Greater than normal snows fell on the Chena River, while the Matanuska and Susitna rivers recorded below average amounts for the month.

Watersheds in southeast Alaska have accumulated a heavy snowpack. On the Long River watershed it is 25 percent above average. It is also above normal on the upper Yukon. Snow is about 15 percent above normal and 25 percent above last year on the south slope of the Brooks Range. This includes the watersheds of the Koyukuk and Chandalar rivers.

In the Ketchikan area the snow surveys near Harriet Hunt Lake show a moderately heavy snowpack.

CALIFORNIA

The California Department of Water Resources, coordinating agency for snow surveys and water supply forecasting in California, reports that excellent water supply potentials for 1973 exist in almost all areas of the State. Major hydrographic areas all experienced above average precipitation, snow accumulation, and runoff during February.

March snow surveys confirm that above normal water reserves are being held in the snowpack, especially at the higher elevations. Snow water content ranges from a low of 105 percent of average in the Pit River drainage area to a high of 210 percent in the high elevation portion of the Kaweah River watershed. In the Kern River Basin, where water supply conditions in the lower reaches continue somewhat below normal, the snow stored water is 145 percent of average at mid-elevation snow courses and 190 percent of average in the higher elevation snow zone.

Precipitation amounted to 135 percent of average over the State during February. Some stations in the North Coastal area and the Pit River Basin, and a small area around Bakersfield, recorded somewhat below average precipitation for the month but most Central Valley stations registered about one-and-one-half times the monthly average. Coastal areas received up to twice average amounts and at Opids, in the South Coastal area, a total of 25.8 inches, or 340 percent of average was recorded.

February runoff was above average on all streams in the Central Valley except for the Kern River. In the San Joaquin Valley portion, runoff ranged from 95 percent of average on the Kern River to 155 percent for the Merced. Sacramento Valley streams ranged from 105 percent of average on the Pit River to 165 percent on the Cosumnes. Below normal runoff was ex-

perienced in the Lahontan area and on several North Coastal area streams during the month.

In the Central Valley runoff for the water year to date generally follows the February pattern with only the Kern River below average for the five-month period. Runoff in several streams on the North Coast, and in the Lahontan area, has also been slightly below normal for the period.

Reservoir storage is up slightly from one year ago. In the Sacramento Valley reservoir storage is normal in all the larger reservoirs. The Department's Oroville Reservoir on the Feather River will fill this year and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation reports that Folson and Clair Engle Lakes should also fill. Storage in San Joaquin Valley reservoirs is still lagging below average for this date by about 10 percent. However, the excellent snowpack in headwater areas has resulted in

forecasts of inflows that will be well above average during the spring and summer snowmelt period. Millerton Lake is expected to fill and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation reports that all contractual water and power deliveries will be met in the Central Valley Project Area. Millerton Lake will produce a full Class I water supply, and 80 percent of a full Class 2 water supply will be available this year. State Water Project commitments for water and power will also be met in all service areas.

Forecasts show that water year supplies will be 120 percent of average. Values range from a low of 90 percent of average for the South Coastal area to 160 percent in the San Francisco Bay Area. Most Central Valley streams are forecasted to produce from average to 120 percent of average flows during the 1972-73 water year.



EXPLANATION of STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

All flows are observed flows except as adjusted for: 1/Storage change in Lake Sherburne. 2/Storage change in Lima and Clark Canyon reservoirs. 3/Storage change in Hebgen Lake. 1/Storage change in Gibson Reservoir and measured diversions. 5/Storage change in Two Medicine, Four Horns, Lake Francis and Swift reservoirs. 6/Storage change in Canyon Ferry and Tiber reservoirs. 7/Changes as indicated in (6/), (8/7), plus storage change in Fort Peck. 8/Storage change in Boysen, Buffalo Bill and Yellowtail reservoirs. 9/Storage change in Buffalo Bill Reservoir plus Heart Mountain diversion. 10/Storage change in Pilot Butte and Bull Lake reservoirs plus Wyoming canal diversion.

11/ Changes indicated in (10/) plus storage change in Boysen Reservoir. 12/ Plus diversions to Cache LaPoudre. 13/ Plus by-pass to power plants. 14/ Minus diversion thru Gumlick Tunnel. 15/ Storage change in Price Reservoir. 16/ Minus diversions from North Platte, Laramie and Colorado rivers plus measured diversions above station. 17/ Storage change in Clear Creek, Twin Lakes and Turquoise reservoirs minus diversions from Colorado River. 18/ Storage change in Rio Grande, Santa Maria and Continental reservoirs. 19/ Storage change in El Vado and Abiquiu reservoirs. 20/ Storage change in Platoro Reservoir.

21/ Storage change in Grandby Reservoir as furnished by U.S.B.R. plus diversions by Adams Tunnel and Grand River Ditch. 22/ Changes as indicated in (21/) plus diversions thru Roberts, Gumlick and Moffat tunnels and storage change in Dillon, Homestake, Williams Fork, Green Mountain and Willow Creek reservoirs. 23/ Changes indicated in (22/) and (26/). 24/ Storage change in Blue Mesa Reservoir. 25/ Changes indicated in (24/), (30/) and (35/) and storage change in Lake Powell. 26/ Diversions to Arkansas River plus storage change in Ruedi Reservoir. 27/ (Inflow record as computed by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.) 28/ Storage change in Taylor, Blue Mesa and Morrow Point reservoirs. 29/ Storage change in Fontenelle Reservoir. 30/ Storage change in Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

31/ Plus diversion through Duchesne Tunnel. 32/ Storage change in Moon Lake Reservoir.
33/ Storage change in Scofield Reservoir. 34/ Storage change in Joe's Valley Reservoir.
35/ Storage change in Navajo Reservoir. 36/ Plus U. P. & L. Co. tailrace and Logan, Hyde Park and Smithfield canals. 37/ Minus diversions thru Duchesne Tunnel and Weber-Provo Canal.
38/ Storage change in Lake Tahoe and Boca reservoirs (Forecast by Truckee Basin Committee.)
39/ Storage change in Bridgeport Reservoir. 40/ Corrected for major upstream impairments -represents simulated natural flow conditions.

41/ Storage change in Priest Lake. 42/ Storage change in Coeur d'Alene Lake and diversions by Spokane Valley Farms Co. and Rathrum Prairie canals. 43/ Storage change in Lake Chelan. 44/ Storage change in Jackson Lake. 45/ Storage change in Jackson Lake and Palisade reservoirs. 46/ Storage change in Jackson Lake, Palisades, Island Park, Henry's Lake, Grassy Lake plus diversions between Heise and Blackfoot. 47/ Storage change in Henry's Lake and Island Park reservoirs. 48/ Storage change in MacKay Reservoir and diversion in Sharp Ditch. 49/ Combined flow Big Wood near Bellevue and Camas Creek near Blaine. 50/ Storage change in Arrowrock, Anderson Ranch and Lucky Peak reservoirs.

51/ Storage change in Wild Horse Reservoir. 52/ Storage change in Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs. 53/ Storage change in Keechelus, Kachess and CleElum reservoirs plus diversion by Kittitas Canal. 54/ Changes indicated in (52/) plus storage change in Bumping and Rimrock Lakes plus diversion by Roza, Union Gap, New Reservation, Old Reservation and Sunrise canals. 55/ Storage change in Bumping and Rimrock lakes and diversions by Tieton, Selah Valley, Wapatox canals and City of Yakima. 56/ Storage change in Merwin, Yale and Swift reservoirs. 57/ Storage change in Mayfield Reservoir.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE 511 N. W. BROADWAY RM. 209 PORTLAND, OREGON 97209

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